

## 9.—*Eremophila ramiflora* (Myoporaceae), a new species from Western Australia

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### Abstract

A new species of *Eremophila*, *E. ramiflora* is described. This species has affinities with *Eremophila fraseri* and is sympatric with *E. fraseri* in the Agnew area of the Northern Goldfields, Western Australia.

### Introduction

While carrying out resin analyses on plants of *Eremophila fraseri* F. Muell. in the field the author's attention was drawn to a previously undescribed species of *Eremophila*. From a distance the plants of the two species can be readily confused. Apart from material collected by the author only two other collections have been made. Although there appears to be a need for extensive taxonomic work in the genus, publication of the description of this species is justified at this time because its boundaries appear well defined.

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### *Eremophila ramiflora* Dell, sp. nov.

Species habitu cum *E. fraseri* optime congruens, sed differt petiolis subdecurrentibus; floribus in caulibus et novis et veteribus portatis; sepalis dorsalibus sepalis internis vix latioribus; sepalis post anthesin vix dilatatis; corolla magentea; lobo ventrali corollae longitudine tubum aequanti differt.

Compact *shrub*, 1-3 m high, vegetative parts glandular hairy, resinous; branchlets thick, rigid, with amber-coloured resin droplets, with remnants of deflexed leaf bases ca. 0.5 cm long. *Leaves* lanceolate, alternate, crowded, spreading, deflexed when mature, 1.2-2.2 cm broad, up to 7.5 cm long, slightly keeled and recurved; blades viscid, green, gradually attenuate or cuneate into the petioles which are difficult to distinguish from the lamina; petioles almost decurrent; margins entire, undulate or repand, rarely serrulate; apex acute. *Flowers* axillary, usually solitary or in small groups, borne on previous season's branchlets and on leafy young branchlets; peduncles 0.7-1.2 cm long, spreading slightly turned up under the flower; calyx segments



Figure 1.—Habit of *E. ramiflora*. Bush about 1.5 m high.



slightly imbricate when mature, oblong to spatulate, acute to obtuse, ca. 1.2 cm long when in flower, enlarging to 1.5 cm, rarely to 2.0 cm; sepals green becoming reddish and shiny after flowering, then reticulate and membranous, dorsal sepal scarcely broader than lateral sepals; corolla 2.5-3.0 cm long, glandular-hairy with some simple hairs inside towards the base; base yellowish-green; tube dark magenta with small dark spots on the outside, cylindrical, scarcely constricted above the ovary, the upper part linear-oblong, slightly curved and not much dilated; lobes unequal, the 4 upper lobes turned back and acute, dorsal lobes short, lateral lobes separated to almost 1/3 the length of the corolla,

ventral lobe long, recurved separated to the middle of the corolla, apex acute and keeled; stamens exerted, filaments glandular pubescent, anthers with magenta lateral papillae, with few glandular hairs; pistil just exerted, style sparsely hairy towards stigma, stigma red; ovary glabrous, green towards the apex, 2-chambered with one pair of ovules to each cell. *Drupe* woody, slightly compressed, shorter than the calyx, 0.6-0.8 cm broad, 0.8-1.0 cm high. Gametic chromosome number  $n=18$ .

*Holotype*.—127.5 km south of Yandal Homestead, 47 km north of Leonora on road to Melrose Station, Western Australia, 28 September 1973, Dell 1050 (PERTH).

*Other Specimens*.—25 km west of Carnegie Homestead, 122°45'E, 25°45'S, Chinnock 893 (AD 97347300); 127 km east of Sandstone, Dell 1029; 16, 21, 28.2, 48, 67.1 km north of Leonora on road to Wiluna, Dell 1074, 1076, 1077, 1072, 1075 (UWA); between Agnew and Leonora, Lovett (PERTH).

### Discussion

Characters of *Eremophila ramiflora* which distinguish it from *E. fraseri* are the almost decurrent broad leaf bases, the flowers arising from both the old and new seasons stems, the sepals not enlarging much after flowering, the dorsal sepal scarcely broader than the internal sepals, and the magenta corolla tube with ventral lobe separated to the middle of the corolla. The resin components of the leaves and stems also differ from those of *E. fraseri*. Figures 1, 2 and 3 show details of habit, flowering shoot and floral characters respectively.

*E. ramiflora* occurs in the Leonora—Agnew region of the Eremean Province extending north-east as far as Lake Carnegie. There are insufficient collections to determine how far east the species extends. Both *E. fraseri* and *E. ramiflora* occur on similar red loams with many stones overlying lateritic hardpans. Near Agnew the species are sympatric, *E. fraseri* being represented as the tetraploid. The nearest diploid population of *E. fraseri* is some 400 km further north.

*E. ramiflora* has been seen in flower in July and September. It is likely that this species flowers after heavy rains and like *E. fraseri* blooms twice in some years.

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### References

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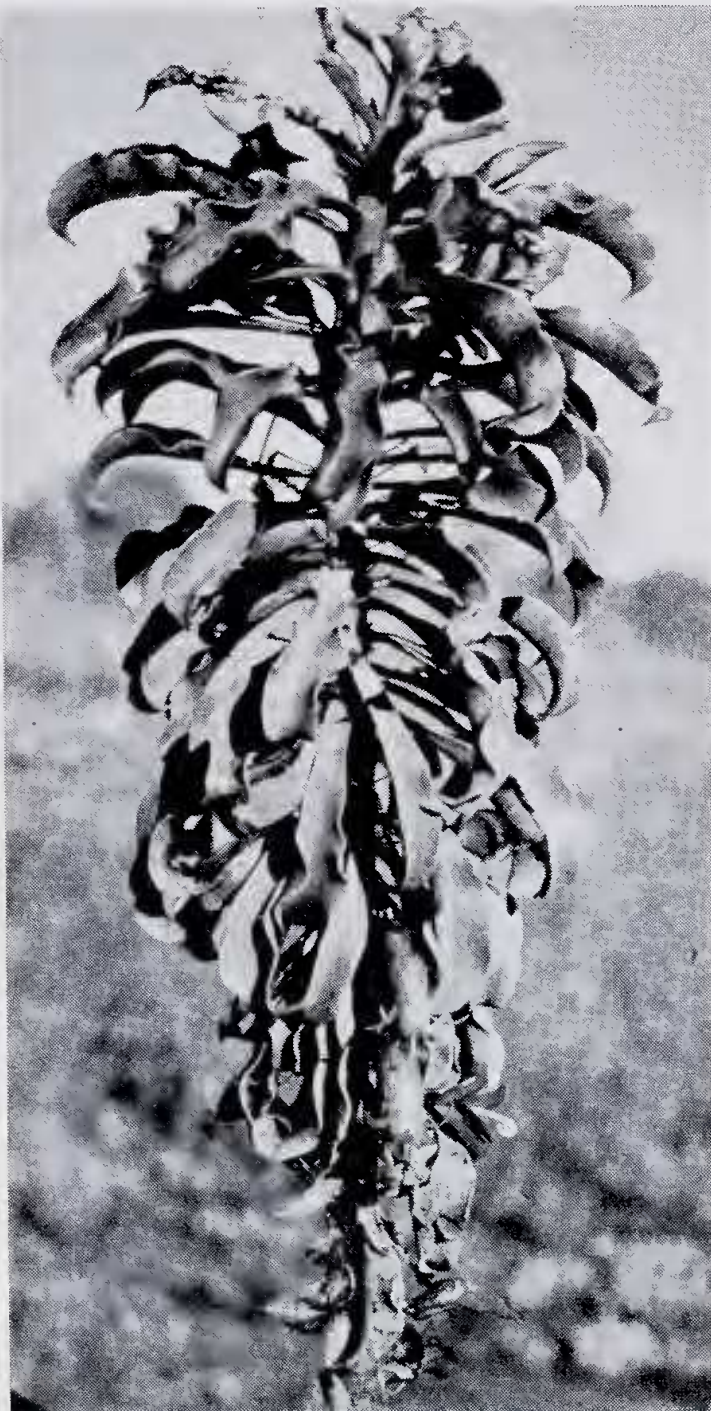


Figure 2.—Close up of stem showing flowers on new and old wood.

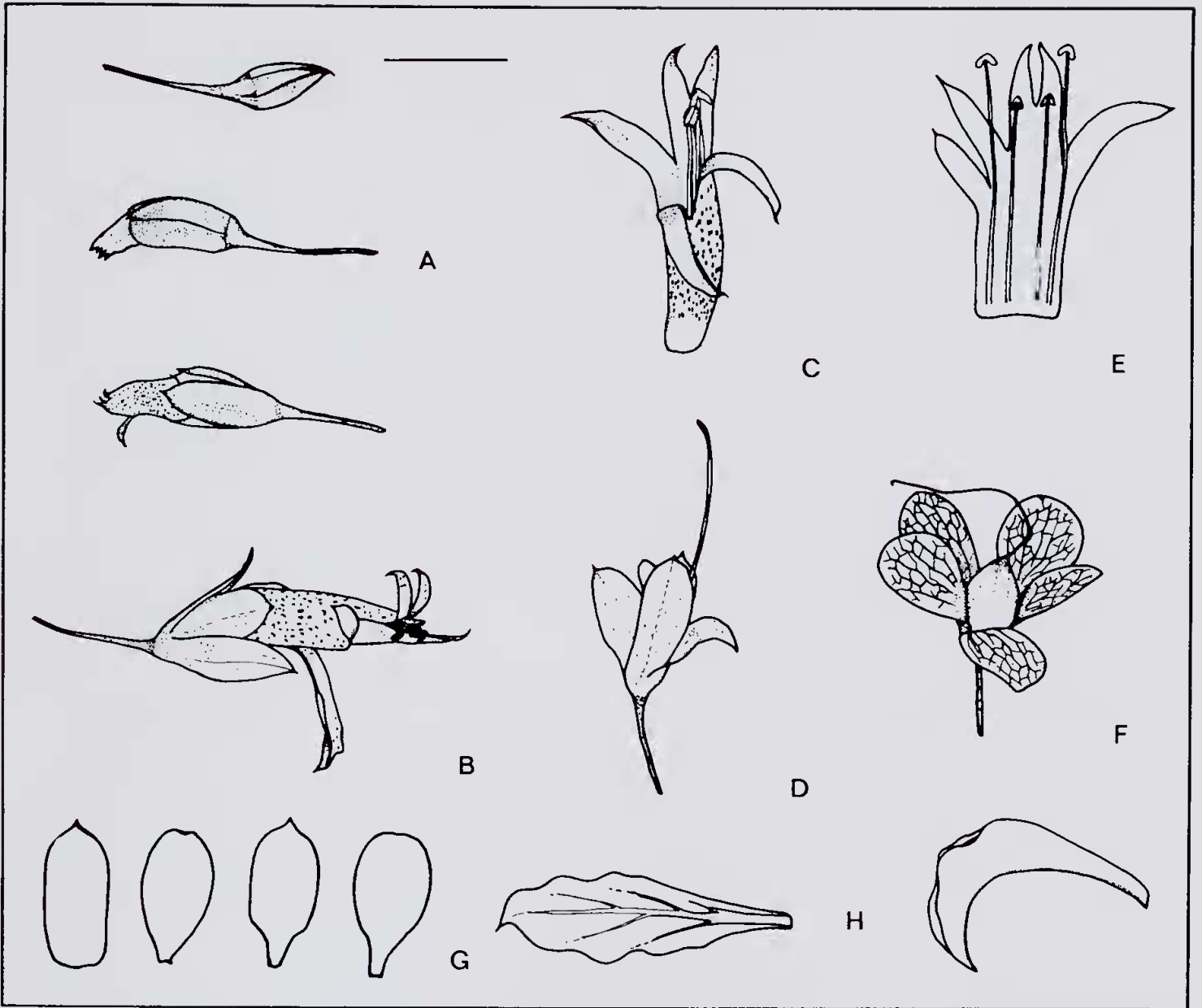


Figure 3.—Details of floral structure. (A.—developing buds, B, C.—mature flower, D.—sepals at flower fall, E.—corolla tube cut and spread, F.—fruit with strongly veined calyx segments, G.—variation in calyx segments, H.—mature leaves. All drawings to same scale; length of bar 1 cm).

